

**MAYOR
JERRY SANDERS**

**Science and Technology Commission's
Public WiFi Working Group
MEETING MINUTES**

The Public WiFi Working Group (PWWG) held a meeting on Tuesday, June 6, 2006, hosted by the City Planning and Community Investment Department located at 600 B Street, San Diego, CA 92101.

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- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Kristopher Lichter called the meeting to order at 8:30 A.M. Subcommittee Members Present: Martha Dennis, Kristopher Lichter, and Tyler Orion. City Planning and Community Investment Department Staff: Toni Dillon and Tina Hines. Public Attendees: Marc Palumbo and Drew Maccullough with Social Freenet. Matt Potter with the San Diego Reader and Bill Griswold with UCSD. Tom Fleming with San Diego Data Processing Corporation (SDDPC).
- II. **INFORMATIONAL DISCUSSION WITH DIANAH NEFF REGARDING BEST PRACTICES IN PROVIDING WIF/BROADBAND ACCESS IN AN A METROPOLITAN AREA:** Ms. Dianah Neff is the Chief Information Officer for the City of Philadelphia. Ms. Neff stated that Philadelphia's WiFi initiative was championed by its Mayor. A summary of this information discussion follows.

Efforts to provide public WiFi access began in 2001. Philadelphia is a strong Mayor form of government with elected Council district representatives. As the City's CIO, Dianah Neff and one staff person began two years of public outreach meetings to stakeholders. Stakeholders included representatives from the school districts, universities, small business community, tourist industry, community planning groups, community technology centers and minority chamber of commerce.

In August 2004, Mayor John F. Street appointed seventeen members to the Wireless Philadelphia Executive Committee (Wireless Philadelphia) to assure experts in wireless technology and community stakeholders were represented for this effort. The intent of Wireless Philadelphia was to create a digital infrastructure for open-air internet access and to help citizens, businesses, schools, and community organizations make effective use of wireless technology to achieve their goals while providing a greater experience for visitors to the City.

A Request for Proposal (RFP) for the above goals and infrastructure was released by the City of Philadelphia. Twelve service providers responded to this RFP and Earthlink was selected. Originally, Philadelphia's policy efforts were concentrated on free access for everyone. However, it was determined that this service would have a multi-tiered cost structure. In addition, Wireless Philadelphia has a one year option for families below the poverty line to receive wireless access for under \$5.00 dollars.

Earthlink will implement a 135 square mile, city wide WiFi mesh network. Earthlink is responsible to fully fund this build out within the City of Philadelphia's boundaries.

Under Earthlink's proposal no City tax dollars will be used to fund the building of the WiFi infrastructure. The services Earthlink provides include discounted access for businesses and residents as well as free access in some parks and public spaces, including tourist destinations. In addition, the City of Philadelphia generates renewal fees from Earthlink as part of the contract agreement. As part of this contract with Earthlink the City of Philadelphia allows exclusive access to City street light polls and buildings for deployment of this wireless network. Only one device is allowed per street light poll and on city/public buildings. The City of Philadelphia's fiber was not used in any way for the deployment of this network. The ED-VO network architecture is too slow to be used by City Police and Fire Departments for communication purposes.

There were many issues for attorneys both private and public to review. Issues included reviewing proposed federal legislation which may limit municipalities' entrance into the public WiFi arena. Several existing City policies needed to be reviewed and revised including the City's Telecommunication and Right-of-Way policies. In addition, pilot projects were initiated.

To conclude Ms. Neff again stressed the need for a political support and grass roots efforts to reach out to stakeholders and the general public to ensure success. She recommended that the PWWG determine what is the impetus for the City to provide free or discounted wireless services to residents. Philadelphia determined that their efforts would concentrate on digital inclusion by addressing the "digital divide" and economic development for small businesses as well as enhancing the tourism.

- III. INTRODUCTION: Subcommittee members and public attendees stated their names, titles, and organizations. The names of all attendees at this meeting are listed in section I CALL TO ORDER section of these minutes.
- IV. PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.
- V. COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PRESENTATION: General discussion of PWWG subcommittee members was addressed. As the PWWG is a subcommittee created by the San Diego Science and Technology Commission (Commission), subcommittee membership is currently limited to Commission members. Because the Commission By-laws are silent to how subcommittees should be managed in regard to parliamentary procedures—it has been determined that members of the general public can participate in discussion. No member of the general public can participate in decision make.

A. Brown Act: Toni Dillon, presented information about open meeting legislation specifically Roberts Rules of Order. Dillon mentioned that as a standing subcommittee, the Public WiFi Working Group must adhere to the following rules: 1) public attendees and subcommittee members should discuss items on the meeting agenda; 2) meeting agendas must be posted seventy-two hours prior to a scheduled meeting; 3) meeting minutes will be available for public review; 4) no discussion of PWWG issues outside of this meeting for the determination of action.

B. CA Government Code Section 1090: Toni Dillon reported that conflict of interest provisions applies to financial and economic interest of a public official. Dillon stated there are five types of economic interests that may cause a conflict for public officials; 1)

business entities; 2) real property; 3) sources of income; 4) personal financial effects; 5) sources of gifts.

Subcommittee members with economic or financial interest in any item discussed at a public meeting must recuse themselves for discussion and decision making.

VI. SCHEDULE OF FUTURE STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Public WiFi Working Group decided to meet on the following dates; July 7, 2006, August 7, 2006, and September 11, 2006 from 8:30 to 10:30 A.M. These meetings will be held in the large conference room of the City Planning and Community Investment Department located at 600 B Street. Additional meetings will be scheduled at a future meeting.

VII. FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

A. Identification of next due diligence steps: The Public WiFi Working group plans to examine and discuss the Philadelphia and San Francisco business models. The group will identify a list of issues relative to the provision of public internet access.

VIII. MEETING WRAP-UP: City staff will research quorum requirements for subcommittees.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: The Public WiFi Working Group meeting adjourned at 10:30 A.M.

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